



# IOTA Newsletter

April 2004

Volume 1, Number 1

## Articles to Read:

- **Welcome**
- **Officers**
- **Teaching Ideas**
- **National Conference**



## STATE CONFERENCE:

### When:

**June 27-30**

### Where:

**Boise, ID**

### Web Address:

<http://www.pte.state.id.us/sumconf/sumconf.htm>

### Information:

Registration is \$65 UNTIL June 15. After June 15th the cost will be \$100.

Special One-day training at Summer Conference on the REAL GAME (for grades 7-8) and the BE REAL GAME (for grades 9-10) – Contact Dick Winn

## Welcome to the First IOTA Newsletter

I would like to take a few lines to welcome you to the first IOTA Newsletter and let you know how you can help make it a success.

When I was asked to put together a Newsletter for our Association I was excited to get involved in an association that I feel will benefit not only IOT teachers, but also all IOT students.

I would like to produce a bi-monthly newsletter and e-mail to everyone, but I need your help to make this a successful Newsletter. I am looking for your stories, teaching tips, and special things that you are doing in your programs that you would love to share with others. Please e-mail them to me at [astark@lewiston.k12.id.us](mailto:astark@lewiston.k12.id.us) throughout the year, even in the summer and I will include them in the next edition of the newsletter.

If you ever have any suggestions on ways to improve the Newsletter or additions you would like to see made please let me know, as this is a learning experience for me. I look forward to communications with you and hope you enjoy this first newsletter. – Amy Stark

## Get to Know Your IOTA Officers

### 2003-2004 IOTA President

Nancy Uptmor [uptmor@sd242.k12.id.us](mailto:uptmor@sd242.k12.id.us)  
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### 2003-2004 IOTA Vice President

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### 2003-2004 IOTA Secretary/Treasurer

Dennis McArthur [mcarthud@sd93.k12.id.us](mailto:mcarthud@sd93.k12.id.us)  
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### 2002-2003 IOTA MERITORIOUS AWARD WINNER

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### Past President 2002-2003 & Nominations Committee 2004-05

Kathy Buswell [kathbusw@sd274.k12.id.us](mailto:kathbusw@sd274.k12.id.us)  
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### 2003-2004 NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE (No Picture)

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### 2003-2004 AWARDS COMMITTEE (No Picture)

Nancy Jones [jonenanc@d91.k12.id.us](mailto:jonenanc@d91.k12.id.us)  
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# Teaching Ideas/Lessons

## Career Brochure

I love to have my students do research on a number of different careers throughout their time in class. The basic research paper has become not only boring for them to write, but also very boring to grade. So I pulled from my Word Processing Lesson Plans a brochure assignment. I have the students use Microsoft Word to create brochures on any career of their choosing. I make a list of things that need to be included in the brochure, which can be found on CIS, and then a rubric for grading. The students get to use their creative talents and learn about their careers in the process. The students seem to really enjoy the activity and most do an excellent job with great graphics/pictures and awesome creativity. If you would like to have the lesson plans please e-mail me and I will send them to you. -Amy Stark

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Don't Forget to  
Send Articles,  
Ideas, Information  
about your



# programs, and Lesson Plans/Tips

# ACTE National Conference

Thanks in part to a professional development grant from CTEI, I was able to attend the National Conference of ACTE in Orlando last December. It was a great professional experience for me for several reasons. First, it was powerful to realize how many people at the national level are involved in promoting professional/technical opportunities and how articulate and committed these people are. Sometimes the struggle to maintain and build career-centered programs at the local level seems endless, especially with the focus on "core academic standards" associated with NCLB. It was reassuring to see so many others involved in the promotion of prof/tech programs and to hear from U.S. Department of Education personnel how ACTE and its members are listened to and that our input does affect national policy.

Second, the breakout sessions provided a variety of new ideas and methods to improve in-class learning, to integrate academic skills into hands-on learning activity, and to build program support. I came home with ambition and skills to do better as a teacher and more active advocate for prof/tech programs. Several sessions I attended focused on the importance of "relevance." Prof/tech teachers have a real advantage over many academic teachers in making curriculum relevant to future goals, current student interests, and future employability. Research presented illustrated the advantage of physical participation and learning in context or applied situations. Student retention of math concepts is a prime example. Many math classes present a concept; have students complete a page or two of non-situational problems, test, and then move on to the next abstract concept. Students who are able to remember the concept are often unable to apply this knowledge to real life word problem situations on the ISAT or COMPASS tests. Prof/tech instructors are fortunate to teach concepts and skills in real life context. We teach skills for life, not just to earn a diploma, and the relevance enhances retention and application by students.

Next year the National Conference is in Las Vegas, which is much more affordable for those of us in Idaho. I recommend that prof/tech teachers attend. ACTE is in financial trouble due to poor attendance at the 2004 Conference (members have been asked to help), and we can help by attending the National Conference in 2005; there is strength in numbers, and those who choose to attend will benefit with direct information about vocational education policy and practice across this nation -- which is something we need occasionally to help us stay focused. — Dennis McArthur